

REMARKS

Claims 1-10 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) as being anticipated by Haapasalo.

Reconsideration is requested.

The Haapasalo patent has been applied as disclosing a bed plane comprising a plurality of slats arranged transversely along a bed plane and having a series of stems or pistons connected to one or more slats and having pulleys or sliding guides that are associated with a flexible member so that the stems or pistons react to the weight of a body on the bed plane.

Claim 1, as amended, requires that an elastic sliding element be associated with the piston or stem. New claim 9 points out that the elastic element is a spring as pointed out in the specification at page 6, last line to page 7, first line and at page 8, lines 14-22. New claim 10 points out that the elastic sliding element (12) is arranged between the top end (13) of frame (10) and a support block (14) of pulley (15) in accordance with the specification at page 7, lines 1-5.

The Haapasalo reference describes the use of a systems of guides (11) that direct the up and down motion of a support member (14). That system only rigidly reacts to the action of a force that is applied to the lath that is connected to the support member (14). Claim 1, and all of the claims that are dependent on claim 1 in the present application, recites that an elastic sliding element (12) is associated with each stem or piston. The specification at pages 6-7 explains that this element is an elastic or yielding element and as such can deflect in response to the weight of a body. At page 8, lines 10-16, the specification

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also points out that the springs (12), when compressed, act with the stems (11) to provide a thrust that supports the weight of a body that is applied to the bed plane.

Haapasalo does not suggest or show any flexible element that can function as a spring. The guides (11) disclosed by Haapasalo would not function as guides if they were compressible because their function is to confine and direct the up and down motion of the support member (14). For these reasons, it is requested that this ground of rejection be withdrawn.

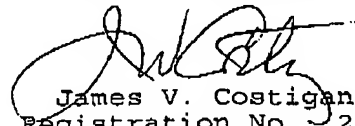
Claim 8 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Haapasalo in view of Fehlman.

Reconsideration is requested.

Claim 8 points out improved structure wherein said bed plane has articulated portions. The articulated portions are shown in Fig. 3. The Haapasalo patent has been distinguished above and claim 8 is patentable over the disclosure of that patent. The Fehlman patent discloses a completely different articulated bed structure where each articulated member has a separate flexible element. Claim 8 has been amended to point out that a single flexible element on each side as shown in Fig. 3. For these reasons, it is requested that this ground of rejection be withdrawn.

An early and favorable action is earnestly solicited.

Respectfully submitted,



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